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THE  
BURNS ALMANAC  
FOR 1897

A Hand-Book of Information Concerning  
The Scottish Poet.

COMPILED BY JOHN D. ROSS, LL. D.,

Editor of "Burnsiana," "Highland Mary," "Robert Burns," "Glen

Burns," "Clarinda," "The Burns Scrap Book,"

"All about Burns," etc., etc.



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## NOTE.

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*The work of compiling this little Almanac may seem to the general reader to have been a comparatively easy task, nevertheless it consumed many of my leisure hours for the past few months. It was, however, a pleasing and congenial occupation for me and now that it is completed I trust it may prove of some interest to the admirers and students of "Scotland's Darling Poet," everywhere. It will be noticed that a few of the items enumerated are not of a very important character and in connection with this I beg to say that I shall feel greatly obliged to anyone who will suggest more appropriate items for any of the dates having this objection. Indeed items or suggestions having in view the making more perfect all future issues of the Almanac will be gratefully received at any time. Address care of the publishers.*

*Wishing to associate this Record with the name of a society of Scotsmen and Scottish Americans which does much each year to honor the memory and genius of Robert Burns in America, I take pleasure in dedicating it*

TO  
THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF  
CLAN MACDONALD, No. 33,  
ORDER OF SCOTTISH CLANS,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

JOHN D. ROSS.

## JANUARY.

1. "This day Time winds" etc. Composed 1790.
2. Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 1793.
3. Rev. Andrew Jeffrey died 1795.
4. Copy of "Epistle to Robert Graham, of Fintry," sent to Dr. Blacklock, 1789.
5. Alexander Fraser Tytler, died 1813.
6. Copy of "Robin Shure in Hairst," sent to Robert Ainslie, 1789.
7. Gilbert Burns initiated into St. James' Lodge, F. & A. M. 1786.
8. The poet defines his religious Creed in a letter to Clarinda, 1788.
9. "Highland Mary," published by Alexander Gardner, Paisley, 1894.
10. Robert Graham of Fintry, died 1815.
11. Dr. John Mackenzie, died 1837.
12. The poet present at Grand Masonic Meeting, St. Andrew's Lodge, Edinburgh, 1787.
13. Albany, (N. Y.) Burns Club, organized 1854.
14. Mrs. Burnes, mother of the poet, died 1820.
15. The poet describes his favorite authors in a letter to John Murdoch, 1783.
16. The Scottish Parliament sanctions the Union, 1707.
17. Letter to Peter Hill, 1791.
18. "Burnsiana," vol. 1, issued 1892.
19. Letter to Clarinda, 1788.
20. Mrs. Candlish, the Miss Smith of the Mauchline Belles, died 1854.
21. Dr. John Moore, died 1802.
22. "Round Burns' Grave," enlarged edition, published 1892.
23. Article on Bonnie Jean, by Archibald Munro, in *The Scotsman*, 1894.
24. Copy of "Farewell to Clarinda," sent to Mrs. McLehose, 1788.
25. Birthday of the poet, 1759.
26. Copy of "Lord Gregory," sent to Mr. George Thomson 1793.
27. "Isabel Burns," A Memoir, published in 1894.
28. Alexander Cunningham, died 1812.
29. Letter to Clarinda, 1788.
30. James, Earl of Glencairn, died 1791.
31. Bonnie Prince Charlie, died 1788.

## FEBRUARY.

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1. The poet affiliated a member of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, No. 2, 1787.
2. John Rankin, died 1810.
3. The poet's portrait painted by Naysmith, 1787.
4. "Burns Chronicle," Edited by John Muir, issued 1892.
5. Thomas Carlyle, died 1881.
6. The poet petitions for permission to erect headstone over the grave of Robert Fergusson, 1787.
7. The poet visited Ecclefechan, 1795.
8. Gavin Hamilton, died 1805.
9. Copy of "O Lassie Art Thou Sleeping Yet," sent to Mr. Thomson, 1795.
10. Peter Hill, Bookseller, died 1837.
11. Right Rev. John Geddes, D. D., died 1799.
12. Two letters to Mrs. Dunlop, 1788.
13. William Burnes, father of the poet, died 1784.
14. Douglas Graham, (Tam o'Shanter), died 1811.
15. Rev. Dr. James Steven, died 1824.
16. Letter to Mr. Alexander Cunningham, 1790.
17. "The Twa Dogs," completed 1786.
18. George Thomson, died 1851.
19. Mrs. Scott, the "Guidwife of Wauchope House," died 1789.
20. Bishop Alexander Geddes, died 1802.
21. William Nicol, son of the poet, died 1872.
22. Permission granted to erect headstone on the grave of Robert Fergusson, 1787.
23. Rev. John Russell, Kilmarnock, died 1817.
24. William Gordon, Lord Kenmure, executed 1715.
25. The poet presented with a copy of Johnson's "Lives of the Poets," 1789.
26. James Johnson, the Engraver, died 1811.
27. Jean Armour, born 1767.
28. "The Diel's Awa wi' the Exciseman," composed 1792.

## MARCH.

1. The poet inaugurated Poet Laureate of Canongate Kil-winning Lodge, No. 2, 1787.
2. Anabella, sister of the poet, died 1832.
3. Twin daughters born to the poet, 1788.
4. Rev. Dr. Carfrae, died 1822.
5. Lord Dare, (William Basil), died 1795.
6. John Ramsay, of Ochtertyre, died 1814.
7. Bust of the poet unveiled in Westminster Abbey, 1885.
8. William Cruickshank, Teacher, died 1795.
9. William Nicol, son of the poet, born 1795.
10. "All About Burns," published 1896.
11. Rev. Dr. Bowmaker, Dunse, died 1797.
12. "There'll Never be Peace till Jamie Comes Hame," composed 1781.
13. The poet completes terms for the farm of Ellisland, 1788.
14. R. H. Cromek, died 1812.
15. Janet Little, died 1813.
16. "Burnsiana," vol. 4, issued 1894.
17. Agnes Broun, mother of the poet, born 1732.
18. Charles K. Sharpe, died 1851.
19. "Lines under the portrait of Fergusson," written 1787.
20. Copy of "Mary Morison," sent to George Thomson, 1793.
21. "Fair Empress of the poet's soul," sent to Clarinda, 1787.
22. Possilpark Burns' Club, instituted 1892.
23. Letter to Dr. Moore, 1789.
24. Robert Aiken, writer, died 1807.
25. James Gould, great collector of Burnsiana, died 1890.
26. Mrs. Burns, the poet's widow, died 1834.
27. "Wilt Thou be my Dearie," composed 1793.
28. MS. of "Song of the Whistle," sold in Edinburgh at auction, for 230 guineas, 1887.
29. Breadalbane, John, 4th earl of, died 1834.
30. Dr. William McGill, died 1807.
31. The poet appointed to the Excise, 1788.

## APRIL.

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1. Funeral day of the poet's widow, 1834.
2. Gilbert Burns published his recollections of the poet, 1798.
3. Prof. John Wilson, died 1854.
4. Preface to second edition of the poems, written 1787.
5. Tam o'Shanter Club, Dumfries, decides to raise funds for a Burns Statue, 1877.
6. Dumfries statue unveiled, 1882.
7. Copy of "Yes'treen I had a pint of Wine," sent to Mr. Thomson, 1793.
8. Gilbert Burns, died 1827.
9. William Nicol Burns, born 1791.
10. Alexander Nasmyth, artist, died 1840.
11. Jane Maxwell, Duchess of Gordon, died 1812.
12. Dr. Currie's edition of the poets works, issued 1800.
13. Robert Heron, died 1807.
14. Rev. Dr. Robert Duncan, died 1815.
15. Rev. Dr. A. Murray, died 1813.
16. Battle of Culloden, 1746.
17. Rev. Dr. Patrick Wodrow, died 1793.
18. Rev. Dr. John Kemp, died 1805.
19. Mrs. M'Murdo, died 1836.
20. "To a Mountain Daisy," composed 1786.
21. New edition of poems, issued 1787.
22. Robert Muir, Kilmarnock, died 1793.
23. William Wordsworth, died 1820.
24. Jane Cruickshank, (Mrs. James Henderson), "The Rosebud," died 1835.
25. Maxwell Burns, died 1799.
26. Rev. Dr. David Shaw, died 1810.
27. "The Soldier's Return," composed 1793.
28. Rev. George Smith, died 1823.
29. Rev. James Gillespie, died 1806.
30. Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, died 1796.



## MAY.

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1. James Hogg, elected poet laureate of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, No. 2, 1835.
2. David Siller, died 1830.
3. Epistle to Gavin Hamilton recommending a boy, written 1786.
4. John Anderson, hero of the song, "John Anderson my Jo," died 1832.
5. The poet and Robert Ainslie started on tour through the South of Scotland, 1787.
6. John Wilson, publisher, died 1821.
7. John Lapraik, died 1807.
8. "The Land of Burns," by Hon. Wallace Bruce, published in New York, 1879.
9. *Kilmarnock Standard* reprints Rev. P. H. Waddell's Centenary (1859) Address, 1891.
10. Dr David Irving, died 1860.
11. Freedom of Burgh of Jedburgh conferred upon the poet, 1787.
12. Captain Francis Grose, died at Dublin, 1791.
13. William Tennant, "Preacher Willie," died 1813.
14. Final interview between the poet and Highland Mary. 1786.
15. "Epistle to a young friend," composed 1786.
16. Rev. Dr. James Muirhead, died 1808.
17. Rev. Archibald Alison, died 1839.
18. Copy of "Delia," sent to the editor of *The Star*, 1789.
19. The poet was made a Royal Arch Mason, 1787.
20. "Robert Burns, A Centenary Ode," by Hunter MacCulloch, issued 1896.
21. "Burns Almanac," No. 1, issued, 1897.
22. "Rantin' Rovin' Robin," composed 1785.
23. The poet acted as D. P. G. M. St. James Lodge, Tarbolton, 1788.
24. Mrs. Dunlop, of Dunlop, died 1815.
25. Dinner in London in aid of the Mausoleum fund, 1816.
26. Jessie Lewers (Mrs. Thomson), died 1855.
27. Lord Monboddo, died 1799.
28. "Though Cruel Fate," composed 1785.
29. Epitaph on Robert Ruisseaux, composed 1785.
30. Article on Burns and Scottish song, by Robert Ford in *The Peoples' Friend*, 1892.
31. "Mark Yonder Pomp of Costly Fashion," composed 1795.

## JUNE.

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1. "Address of Beelzebub," composed 1785.
2. Rev. John Mutrie, died 1785.
3. "Logan Braes," composed 1796.
4. "Guid Mornin' to your Majesty," composed 1786.
5. Miss Alexander, "the Lass of Ballochmyle," died 1843.
6. A Burns statue for Glasgow, suggested by an article in *The Citizen*, 1872.
7. "On a Scotch bard gone to the West Indies," composed 1786.
8. "Adown winding Nith I did wander," composed 1793.
9. The poet returned to Mauchline after his Border Tour, 1787.
10. "A Bard's Epitaph," composed 1786.
11. Prof. Dugald Stewart, died 1828.
12. The poet took up his residence at Ellisland, 1788.
13. Mrs. Thomson, Betty Burns, died 1873.
14. Agnes Tennant, "Nancy," died 1787.
15. Thomas Campbell, died 1843.
16. Rev. John Skinner, died 1807.
17. Miss Burnet of Monboddo, died 1790.
18. Letter to William Nicol, 1787.
19. James Boswell, of Auchinleck, died 1795.
20. "From thee Eliza, I must go," composed 1786.
21. Description of Tour in Galloway, sent to Mr D. McCulloch, 1794.
22. "The Lass o' Ballochmyle," composed 1786.
23. The poet acted as D. M. of St. James Lodge, 1786.
24. Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, died 1827.
25. Copy of "Logan Water," sent to Mr. Thomson, 1793.
26. Jessie Lewers, presented by the poet with the Scots Musical Museum, 1796.
27. Alexander H. Smith, "Antique Smith," convicted of forging Burns and other manuscripts, 1893.
28. First Version of poem "Written in Friars Carse," composed 1788.
29. Mary Morison, died at Mauchline, 1791.
30. William Roscoe, died 1831.

## JULY.

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1. John Goudie, Alloway, died 1842.
2. Copy of "Bonie Jean," sent to Mr. Thomson, 1793.
3. Jean, daughter of Gilbert Burns, died 1815.
4. The poet initiated into St. David's Lodge, Tarbolton, 1781.
5. Mrs. Riddell and the poet had a memorable interview, 1796.
6. "Last May a braw wooer cam' down the lang glen," composed 1795.
7. Rev. Dr. Thomas Blacklock, died 1791.
8. Ayr Monument unveiled, 1891.
9. Francis Wallace Burns, died 1803.
10. John Burns, brother of the poet, born 1769.
11. Epistle to Hugh Parker, composed 1788.
12. Letter addressed to Mr. Thomson soliciting loan of five pounds, 1796.
13. Leslie Bailey, (Mrs. Cunningham of Logie), died 1843.
14. George Thomson wrote his last letter to the poet, 1796.
15. Burns Exhibition, opened at Glasgow, 1896.
16. Rev. David Grant, died 1791.
17. Letter to David Bryce, "I am now fixed for the West Indies in October." 1786.
18. Burns Statue at Irvine unveiled, 1896.
19. William Stewart, companion of the poet, died 1812.
20. John McLeod of Raasay, died 1787.
21. The day on which the poet died, 1796.
22. Assignment made by the poet of his works, 1786.
23. Letter to Robert Ainslie, 1787.
24. The poet's remains removed from his house to the Town Hall, 1796.
25. Funeral day of the poet, 1796.
26. Burns Statue unveiled on Thames Embankment, 1884.
27. The poet elected D. M. St. James Lodge, 1784.
28. Mrs. Dugald Stewart (Miss Crauston), died 1838.
29. Alexander Weir, Merchant, died 1819.
30. William Burns, brother of the poet, born 1767.
31. First edition of the poems, issued 1786.

## AUGUST.

1. Rev. James Young, Cumnock, died 1795.
2. Autobiographical sketch sent to Dr. John Moore, 1787.
3. Sir Harris Nicolas, died 1848.
4. First epistle to Mr. Graham of Fintry, composed 1788.
5. The poet and Jean Armour married in public, 1788.
6. Festival in honor of the poet's sons held at Ayr, 1844.
7. "The Kirk's Alarm," composed 1789.
8. "Montgomery's Peggy," composed 1784.
9. "Whistle and I'll come to you," composed 1793.
10. Sir Robert Laurie, Maxwellton, died 1804.
11. Robert Tennant, ("Singin' Sannoch,") died 1841.
12. James Glencairn Burns, born 1794.
13. Fourth Vol. Scots Musical Museum, published 1792.
14. Rev. James Shepherd, Muirkirk, died 1799.
15. Sir Walter Scott, born 1771.
16. Letter regarding, "Man was made to Mourn," sent to Mrs. Dunlop, 1788.
17. Dr. Adam Smith, died 1790.
18. Francis Wallace Burns, born 1789.
19. Samuel Clark, writer, died 1814.
20. The poet visited Kenmore, 1787.
21. Unveiling of the Highland Mary panel in the Ayr Statue, by Hon. Wallace Bruce, 1895.
22. "The Holy Fair," composed 1785.
23. Alexander Wilson, author of "Watty and Meg," died 1813.
24. Rev. Dr. Blacklock, addressed a poetical epistle to the poet, 1789.
25. The poet started on his Highland Tour, 1787.
26. The poet knelt at the tomb of Sir John the Graham, 1787.
27. Mr. Tait of Harvieston, visited by the poet, 1787.
28. John Francis Erskine, Earl of Mar, died 1825.
29. "On the Seas and far Away," composed 1794.
30. David Tennant, ("The Manly Tar,") died 1839.
31. Dr. James Currie, died 1805.

## SEPTEMBER.

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1. Public Library opened in Dumfries, 1793.
2. Blair Athol visited by the poet, 1787.
3. Robert Burns Jr. born 1786.
4. Rev. Dr. Blacklock suggested that the poet visit Edinburgh, 1786.
5. Robert Fergusson, born 1751.
6. James Clark, Teacher, died 1825.
7. Culloden Muir, visited by the poet, 1787.
8. The poet enrolled as a member of the Caledonian Archers, 1792.
9. "The Day Returns," composed 1788.
10. Tam Samson's Elegy, composed 1786.
11. Jean Lorimer, "Chloris," died 1831.
12. The poet's remains placed in the Mausoleum, 1815.
13. Third epistle to Lapraik, composed 1785.
14. Rev. Dr. Andrew Shaw, died 1805.
15. Burns statue unveiled at Aberdeen, 1892.
16. The poet returned to Edinburgh from his Highland tour, 1787.
17. Epistle to the Rev. John McMath, written 1785.
18. Monument erected in St Michael's Churchyard, 1815.
19. Douglas Ainslie, died 1850.
20. "The Burns Scrap Book," issued in New York, 1893.
21. Sir Walter Scott, died 1832.
22. "She says she lo'es me best of a'," composed 1794.
23. Sir Adam Ferguson of Kilkerran, died 1813.
24. "O Willie brewed a peck o' mant," composed 1789.
25. Rev James Grey, died 1830.
26. James McKie, publisher, died 1891.
27. Sir Thomas Miller, Bart. died 1789.
28. Gilbert Burns, born 1760.
29. John, fourth Duke of Athol, died 1830.
30. Burns Statue at Albany, (N. Y.), unveiled 1888.

## OCTOBER.

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1. The poet raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, 1781.
2. Burns Statue unveiled in Central Park, New York, 1830.
3. Edward Whigham, Provost of Sanquhar, died 1823.
4. Ballad of The Whistle, composed 1789.
5. Date of the second epistle to Mr. Graham of Fintry, 1791.
6. Final accounting between the poet and Mr. Wilson the printer, 1786.
7. "Farewell the Bonie Banks of Ayr," composed 1786.
8. Hon. Henry Erskine, died 1817.
9. James Brash, Bookseller, died 1835.
10. Epistle to Rev. Dr. Blacklock, composed 1789.
11. Rev. Dr. William Peebles, died 1826.
12. William Tytler of Woodhouselee, born 1781.
13. Dr. William Maxwell, died 1834.
14. Rev. Dr. Andrew Mitchell, died 1811.
15. Allan Ramsay, born 1686.
16. Robert Fergusson, died 1774.
17. Isa Craig Knox, born 1831.
18. Letter to Miss Alexander of Ballochmyle, 1786.
19. "The Lover's Morning Salutation," composed 1794.
20. Highland Mary, died 1786.
21. "On Captain Grose's Peregrinations," composed 1789.
22. Clarinda, died 1841.
23. The poet introduced to Prof. Dugald Stewart, 1786.
24. "Lines on Meeting with Lord Dare," composed 1786.
25. "Tullochgorun," pronounced "the best Scotch song ever Scotland saw," 1787.
26. The poet affiliated with St. John's Lodge, 1786.
27. The poet presented with Ritson's collection of English songs, 1794.
28. William Dudgeon, died 1813.
29. Allan Cunningham, died 1842.
30. Andrew Hunter Aiken, died 1832.
31. London Burns Club, Instituted 1868.

## NOVEMBER.

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1. William Motherwell, died 1835.
2. Isabel Pagan, died 1821.
3. *Edinburgh Magazine* contains critique on the poets writings. 1786.
4. Mrs. Bruce (Clackmannan), died 1791.
5. "My Chloris, mark how green the groves," composed 1794.
6. Letter to James Hoy, 1787.
7. "Lassie wi' the Lint White Locks," composed 1794.
8. The poet defends the house of Stuart in a letter to the *London Star*, 1788.
9. "To a Mouse," composed 1785.
10. Rev. Dr. Thomas Blacklock, born 1721.
11. William Burnes, the poets father, born 1721.
12. Sir William Forbes, Bart. died 1806.
13. Battle of Sherrifmuir, 1715.
14. Anabella Burns, sister of the poet, born 1764.
15. Copy of "The Mother's Lament," sent to Rev. Dr. Blacklock, 1788.
16. Dr. James Adair, and Miss Charlotte Hamilton married, 1789.
17. Fitz-Green Halleck, died 1867.
18. James Glencairn Burns, died 1865.
19. James Fergusson (Craigdarroch), died 1787.
20. "Contented wi' little and cantie wi' mair," composed 1795.
21. Elizabeth Riddell Burns, born 1792.
22. New Brig, Ayr, opened 1786.
23. Burns manuscript forgeries exposed by *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, 1892.
24. John Syme, died 1831.
25. John Gibson Lockhart, died 1854.
26. Col. De Peyster, died 1822.
27. The poet left Mossgiel for Edinburgh, 1786.
28. The poet arrived in Edinburgh, 1786.
29. William Reid, Bookseller, died 1831.
30. Letter to James Dalrymple, 1786.

## DECEMBER.

1. Complete copy of "The Lea Rig," sent to Mr. Thomson 1792.
2. "My Bonie Mary," composed 1788.
3. "Antique Smith's," portrait appeared in *The Evening Dispatch*, 1892.
4. Isabella Burns (Mrs. Begg), died 1858.
5. Duchess of Athole, died 1790.
6. Final interview between the poet and Clarinda, 1791.
7. Allan Cunningham, born 1784.
8. Elizabeth Burns. "Sonsie, Smirking, dear-bought Bess," (Mrs. John Bishop), died 1817.
9. Henry Mackenzie's article on Burns appeared in *The Lounger*, 1786.
10. Rev. John McMath, died 1825.
11. Copy of "Lament of Mary Queen of Scots," sent to Clarinda, 1791.
12. Rev. Dr. William Auld, died 1791.
13. Lord President Dundas, died 1787.
14. Rev. Mr. Lawson, Kirkmahoe, died 1796.
15. William Burnes and Agnes Broun, married 1757.
16. The poet praised his Jacobite Ancestry in a letter to Lady Winfield M. Constable, 1789.
17. Epigram "To Mr. Syme," composed 1795.
18. Carlyle's Review of Lockhart's Burns appeared in *The Edinburgh Review*, 1828.
19. Louis Cauvin, French Teacher, died 1825.
20. Address to the Haggis first published in *Caledonian Mercury*, 1786.
21. Sir John Sinclair, died 1835.
22. Rev. Alexander Miller, died 1804.
23. Helen Maria Williams, died 1827.
24. Gilbert, son of Gilbert Burns, died 1803.
25. Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 1795.
26. Manson's Burns, 2 vols. issued in London, 1895.
27. The poet elected member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Dumfries, 1788.
28. The poet wrote his first letter to his father from Irvine, 1781.
29. Letter to Mrs. Dunlop.
30. The poet first alludes to Clarinda in a letter to Richard Brown, 1787.
31. The poet recited his Birthday Ode in honor of Prince Charlie, 1787.



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